

Town Hall Meeting Summary
January 19, 2010
City Council Chambers

Attendance

Mayor Goodman
Councilman Barlow
Betsy Fretwell
Department Directors

Summary of Event

There were approximately 125 people who attended the event. When asked how many people were affiliated in some way with local government, about 90% of the audience raised their hands.

Mayor Goodman introduced Mr. Byerman from the Census Bureau, who spoke about the importance of getting an accurate count for our region and stated that they will be hiring 5,000 workers in Nevada alone.

Following the presentation by Betsy Fretwell, David Riggleman moderated the dialogue by asking questions that were written down from the audience participants. The questions are listed below.

In addition, the last half-hour of the meeting was reserved for individuals to ask comments directly to the panel:

Audience Participation Questions

1. Why hasn't the NSP1 funding been allocated to non-profits that should be helping?
2. How do public employees compare to private citizens?
3. Where can I find the City's budget?
4. What about the train?
5. What is the City doing with Renewable Energy? There is a local business that has been attempting to negotiate with the Clark County School District for over 2 years on a project, locally owned and manufactured, that would save \$500,000 per month, but that the School District is dragging its feet.

The following were questions/suggestions/comments that were submitted and will be Included in the public record.

Questions regarding the Town Halls

1. If you have separate meetings for EE's than also for non EE's.
2. Will the Town Hall Meeting at east Las Vegas community center and Chuck Minker Center be translated in Spanish?

Questions regarding City Management, Organizations, Departments, and Programs

3. How much are we spending on tourism? How are we funding public employee pension? How to tap LVCVA funds to attract religious tourism? How much of the budget is spent on studies? Can we get a copy of the budget? Can we get a Town Hall Meeting for the Historic Westside, our issues are different? What are we doing to diversify the economy? What is the average wage to a city employee and how does it compare to the private sector? You should keep city employee and citizen meetings separate.
4. How is the city able to fund new parks, beatification projects, and the MOB Museum and not public safety? We need to fund what we need and not what we want?
5. Is the loss of staff being considered into the cost of the Mob Museum and is it being paid out of the grant funds or general funds?
6. What funds did the Neonopolis bring to the city; can we expect the same for the Mob Museum?
7. My streets are swept once a week; will it save money to reduce that service?
8. Why are sewer bills outsourced to Arizona, we would should keep the money and jobs here?
9. Is the Mayor and CC Barlow proud of the fact that only ½ of 1% of the 270 million construction on the Performing Arts Center is being performed by African Americans? Much more commitment to improve is needed from city council and staff.

Re: the new City Hall

10. Why do we continue to believe that eliminating city jobs is good for the budget and hiring construction workers for the new city hall is better?
11. How much money can be obtained from the current city hall to amortize debt incurred for the new city hall?
12. How can the city justify spending 260 million dollars on the new city hall and still consider cutting back on public safety & fire response? How can we be guaranteed jobs will be provided to locals and non locals?

13. If the city is in a bad financial problem, why is land being issued that needs to be paid in the future?
14. Can the Mayor and Mark Vincent guarantee that none of the general fund money will be used for the new city hall?
15. Where is funding for the furniture, design and expenses for the new city hall coming from?
16. If the new city hall can't be occupied, is the fallback plan to move to the Atrium bldg.?
17. Are future payments for the new city hall going to come out of the general fund?

Re: Public Safety

18. What are we doing to improve the evacuation system?
19. Why is Metro asked to reduce 5% when all other departments asked to reduce 12% Does this have to do with their surplus last year?

Re: the Fire Department

20. How many calls does the Fire Department (not including EMS) take per year and how many calls does that average per day?
21. What is the average amount of fire calls the Fire Department, not including EMS calls. What is the average per day per fire station? How does this compare to other cities the size of Las Vegas?
22. The county is considering ending paramedic services. Will the city also consider this?
23. Why is the fire dept. not on a 12 hr. schedule like L.A. County? Wouldn't it save on overtime costs?
24. Is it cheaper to pay over time to fire fighters than hiring more firefighters?
25. Will programs and employees be sacrificed if the Fire Department does not agree to wage cuts? Is it true that the Fire Department's contract is up for renewal and will the city ask for wage concessions?
26. CM Barlow, the city has delayed all capital improvement projects including station #10 in your ward. What is the current balance of the fire services capital project fund? Is this part of the fire initiative fund?

27. CM Barlow, can you explain why the city did not pursue SAFER grant funding from the federal government for the fire fighters?

Re: Neighborhood Services

28. The city has not spent the money allocated thru the NSP for neighborhood rehab and stabilization. What is the time frame that the city has to spend this money?
29. What is the city's plan for the vacant apartments on Washington Ave. and E. St.?

Questions Regarding Services Outside the Scope of City Authority

30. Relocate UMC Hospital to new location/community learning center by Tropicana & Pecos (southeast). Great location for new hospital.
31. Where is the corporate headquarters for AMR?
32. Take everyone who is in foreclosure and reappraise their homes and create new 30 year loans?

Questions regarding the City of Las Vegas Budget

33. How many vacant positions are there currently in the city of Las Vegas?
34. What was the W2 wage paid to the city manager in 2009?
35. What is the average bonus paid to executive employee by the city?
36. Will programs and employees be sacrificed if the Fire Department does not agree to wage cuts? Is it true that the Fire Department's contract is up for renewal and will the city ask for wage concessions?

Re: Revenues and Expenditures

37. Are the current city's expenditures of the city outpacing the current revenue of the city?
38. How much does the city have in the reserve account?
39. How much interest does the city from investments?
40. Why weren't contractors charged more to build schools/roads? They made millions and left Las Vegas in a pit.
41. For fiscal year 2008/2009 the city's property tax revenue was up 9 1/2%, sales tax revenue was down 12%. The city is asking 33% concession, why such a big difference?

42. Has the city spent any money to date of the revenue stabilization fund? And what is the current balance?

Re: Cost Saving Efforts

43. What capital projects for renewal energy could be taken to reduce electricity, with a reasonable payday period?

44. How much will reduced by eliminating 401k perk for top executive pay?

45. How many employees are eligible to retire and why are they not being forced to do so? Is this something the city is going to do?

46. Why doesn't the Mayor and Council lead by example and take the 8% pay cut?

47. Did it worry you to propose a city employee wage cut right before the holiday and do you think this impacted local spending?

Re: Professional Services and Software Purchases

48. Why is the city purchasing so many professional services and software? I would rather see my tax dollars on other programs.

Re: Alternative Work Schedules

49. Why not consider a 4-day, 9 ½ work?

50. Why doesn't go to 4 day work week as Henderson and North Las Vegas?

Re: Mayoral and Council Concessions

51. When is the City Council & Mayor going take a cut in pay?

Re: Collective Bargaining for Employees

52. Do you support the government's position to abolish collective bargaining for employees?

General Comments

53. Don't cut any public safety funds. I would not want any delayed response due to lack of personal or equipment?

54. Do not cut any fire and EMS services. Our fire fighters are paid a fair wage. Stop spending money on a new city hall, mob museum & sports arena.

55. Do not make cuts on public safety fire and Ems services.

56. Do not cut public safety instead cut back on park services.

57. Please do not cut back on fire and rescue.
58. Do not cut back on firemen, they are the back bone of the city.
59. I would feel safer if there were no cuts to fire services.
60. Facility rental rates are often out of reach for the common citizen. Create fair rates so that citizens can contribute revenue for the city.
61. Fire fighters are paid fair wage, no cuts are needed. Stop spending money on the new city hall, mob museum and the sports arena
62. No cuts to public safety or EMS.
63. Do not cut vital services such as fire services, EMS or public safety.
64. Cut park services first before cutting on fire services.
65. Your lack of employee concern is appalling!